

# ecology and environment, inc.

195 SUGG ROAD, P.O. BOX D, BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14225, TEL. 716 632-4491, TELEX 91-9183

International Specialists in the Environmental Sciences

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



261566

DATE: June 30, 1980

TO: Norm Niedergang, Joe Balrat, Tony Holoska;  
Region V - Enforcement

FROM: William Goode; Region V - FIT *WPG*

SUBJECT: TDD-F5-8006-9  
Paxton Landfill  
Chicago, Illinois

An offsite reconnaissance for the Paxton Landfill was accomplished during the morning of 26 June 1980 by E&E FIT personnel (J. Petrilli, R. Van Someren, W. Goode). The site was inspected for general appearance and the potential for 311 action. The site was inspected on 3 sides, the west, south and east. This was accomplished by driving around the west and south sides and by walking along the railroad tracks on the east side. Observations were made and noted on a site sketch (see attached).

On the west side of the site, there is a culvert which runs from a pond in the Land Lakes Landfill under Stony Island Ave. and discharges into Cal Harbor. There was no observable flow through the culvert; however, there were three dead fish in the vicinity of the outfall (surface runoff from the Hyon site flows in this direction also). There was also ponded water in an area east of the outfall which contained discolored water. A pump was observed at the south-east corner of the pond on the Paxton site, just north of Land and Lakes pond which discharges through the culvert.

The east side of the site is bordered by a railroad track. Either side of the track has numerous areas of standing water. The U.S. Drum site has many (600-1000) drums, some badly dented and corroded, stacked and piled in the area shown on the sketch. Many drums had been covered with plastic, indicating that they are not sealed and therefore pose a threat to the surface water in the vicinity.

The conclusions of the offsite investigation are:

1. There is potentially a serious threat to the surface water within the site.
2. It is possible for the surface water to reach Cal Harbor through the observed culvert.

An on site inspection will be necessary to assess the contents and the stability of the drums. Also indications that chemicals or contaminated leachate may be escaping the site will be evaluated.

The on site inspection is scheduled for July 1, 1980 and will include:

1. Sampling of standing water, ponds and any other surface water to check for possible contamination.
2. Sampling of the discharge from the culvert for contamination which might be leaving the site through the culvert.
3. Sampling of open drums and spill areas to find sources of contamination.
4. Assessing the general condition of the site including landfill and drum storage practices and the resulting stability of the wastes so stored.

WG/df

cc: Tom Yeates

